

Graduate Students' Association Executive Meeting Minutes



University of Saskatchewan
Graduate Students' Association

July 20th, 5:00 P.M -6:30 P.M
GSA Commons

Present: Ehimai Ohiozebau, Mohamed Hamid Mohamed, Steve Jimbo, Ranjan Datta.

Regrets: Xuo Yao, Rebecca Major, Sunisha Neupane.

Call to order @ 5:00 PM

This meeting was requested by Mohamed to discuss and resolve an issue arising from the 2010-2011 GSA budget deficit. The main agenda of the meeting was on the financial state of the GSA. The VP finance explained to the house that there was a huge rise in the staff pay in the last financial session and that the GSA budget will not be able to accommodate such increase henceforth.

1.0 Preamble:

Before now, the CGSR through payroll was responsible for the paying of GSA staff and at the end of the financial year, the school sends its bill to the GSA to be reimbursed through VP finance. The norm has been for each GSA coordinator to fill their time sheet and forward it to the GSA Administrator who eventually sends it to payroll for payment. This process lacked executive oversight and was subject to abuse. Upon receiving the bill for last financial year, Mohamed observed a sudden rise in staff payment. All but one staff were paid vacation pay (which is outside GSA contract agreement) and others were paid for arbitrary hours of work. The total amount spent on GSA staff salary alone for the last financial year was \$68,815.29 (This excludes executive honorarium).

1.1 Point of Action

After series of discussions, it was observed that it is unsustainable to continue with this trend of payment. The GSA does not have the kind of money to meet this overhead cost. Various points were agreed upon:

1.2 Prayers

- (1) Effective Monday August 8th, the GSA common's pay be reduced to \$12 per hour.
- (2) The GSA President and VP Operation are to draft a new contract for the GSA staff
- (3) The GSA Administrator's pay be retained at the current \$18.90 per hour
- (4) The VP Finance as a matter of urgency is to notify payroll to discontinue the payment of GSA staff's salary and that such salaries should henceforth be paid directly by the GSA (just as the executive honorarium is being paid).
- (5) Before any salary is paid, the GSA Administrator should sign off the hours worked by the Commons and eventually forward all hours worked by staff to the VP Operation for final approval.
- (6) The VP Finance is to call for emergency course council meeting.
- (7) Executives are encouraged to be available for shift.

Motion: BIRT that the prayers (1 to 7) above stay as they are. Moved by Mohamed, seconded by Ehimai. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

2.0 Other Motions:

- (1) Orientation: The VP Student Affairs will organize an interview to hire an orientation staff sometime next week and Sarah should represent VP Operations. Any other executive who will be available to attend is welcomed. Amongst the terms of contract for the Orientation Staff is that it's final payment is subject to writing an orientation report for the GSA.
- (2) Executives going out of town: Executives leaving town (Saskatoon) for over 24hrs should let Sarah know. This is to enable her and other staff respond to enquiries (email or phone call) in our absence.
- (3) Commons Booking: Sunisha is to be reminded of the urgency to constitute policy/ constitution review committee in Aug./Sept. to review all our existing laws. Especially in terms of commons booking and GSA property rental.
- (4) CGSR use of GSA commons: Since the staff will be paid \$12p.h and the CGSR is willing to pay \$17.02p.h, Sarah can go ahead to approve the use of commons for GSR 984.

Motion: BIRT that motions 1 to 4 be adopted with no modification. Moved by Ehimai, seconded by Steve. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

3.0 Adjournment

6:30pm

Mohamed/Ranjan

Carried unanimously